

On page 8, delete the second full paragraph and insert therefor:

a² As shown in Figs. 6 to 8, when the sled motor 5 is activated, the driving force thereof is transmitted to the pickup driving mechanism 4 by way of the gears 13, 14 and 15 in a sequential manner, so that the pickup 3 is activated.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

a³ 1. (Amended) A motor supporting device comprising:
a motor accommodating section for accommodating and holding a motor therein, and
a gear holding section that rotatably holds a gear for externally transmitting a driving force of said motor,

wherein said motor supporting device further comprises a covering section, which is monolithically formed with said motor accommodating section and flatly covers said gear holding section.

2. (Amended) A motor supporting device comprising:
a motor accommodating section for accommodating and holding a motor therein, and
a gear holding section that rotatably holds a gear for externally transmitting a driving force of said motor,

wherein said motor supporting device further comprises a covering section, which is integrally formed with said motor accommodating section and flatly covers said gear holding section,

wherein said covering section comprises a side pressing section that abuts to an end portion of said gear provided to a drive shaft of the motor.

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3. (Amended) A motor supporting device according to claim 2 further comprising a fitting section for fixing said covering section to said motor accommodating section, with said side-pressing section being abutted to the end portion of said gear mounted to said motor drive shaft, said fitting section being provided to at least either one of said covering section and said motor accommodating section.

Please add the following new claims.

a4

5. (New) A motor supporting device according to claim 2, wherein said covering section is bendably formed with respect to said motor accommodating section.

6. (New) A motor supporting device according to claim 2 further comprising a fitting section for coupling the end portion of a support shaft that is formed in said gear holding section for rotatably holding the gear to said covering section, said fitting section being provided to at least either one of said covering section and the end portion of said support shaft.

7. (New) A motor supporting device according to claim 1, wherein said covering section is bendably formed with respect to said motor accommodating section, and comprises a side pressing section that abuts to the end portion of said gear provided to the motor drive shaft.

8. (New) A motor supporting device according to claim 7, further comprising a fitting section for fixing said covering section to said motor accommodating section, with said side-pressing section being abutted to the end portion of said gear mounted to said motor drive shaft, said fitting section being provided to at least either one of said covering section and said motor accommodating section.